
FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 7.23.2010

Wall Street Journal: "SEC Breaks Impasse With Rating Firms ... The Securities and Exchange Commission moved to defuse turmoil in the bond markets caused by ratings firms' refusal to allow their credit ratings to be used in deal documents."

Wall Street Journal: "European Banks Brace for Stress Tests ... After weeks of anticipation, European bank stress-test results are due out late Friday after the region's stock markets close, a closely watched bid to quell concern about the stability of European banks after a spring of fiscal and financial problems."

Wall Street Journal: "Pay Czar to Blast Payments ... A White House-appointed pay watchdog will cite 17 financial firms for making \$1.6 billion in "ill-advised" payments during the height of the financial crisis, people familiar with the matter said."

Wall Street Journal: "Geithner: Taxes on Wealthiest to Rise ... The Obama administration will allow tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans to expire on schedule, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said Thursday, setting up a clash with Republicans and a small but vocal group of Democrats who want to delay the looming tax increases."

Wall Street Journal: "Thailand Central Bank Raises Forecast ... Thailand's central bank Friday sharply revised up its 2010 economic growth forecasts due to robust exports, saying recent antigovernment protests had limited impact on the economy, but cautioned that global risks remain."

Wall Street Journal: "Smaller Banks See Loan-Book Rebound ... Earnings from regional banks showed a credit rebound that extends to Ohio and the Southeast, two areas that struggled for two years with loan losses."

Wall Street Journal: "Fan and Fred: What Would Andrew Jackson Do? ... It is a well-known scandal that the Dodd-Frank financial "reform" bill could not find room in its 2,300 pages to address the government blunder at the center of the housing bubble, namely Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac."

Washington Post: "Key lieutenants behind scenes ensured passage of financial regulation overhaul ... When Neal Wolin walked into the House speaker's office in December, landmark legislation to reshape the nation's financial regulations had been working its way through the House for more than six months."

Washington Post: "New financial rulebook tangles loan bundlers, ratings agencies ... Merely days old, the financial regulatory law has already generated its first real-world hiccup."

NY Times: "Federal Report Faults Banks on Huge Bonuses ... With the financial system on the verge of collapse in late 2008, a group of troubled banks doled out more than \$2 billion in bonuses and other payments to their highest earners."

NY Times: "Mortgage Securities It Holds Pose Sticky Problem for Fed ... The Federal Reserve provided most of the money for new mortgages in the United States last year, effectively lending more than \$1 trillion to American homeowners."

LA Times: "Financial reform law includes big cash incentives for whistle-blowers ... The new financial reform law has what some lawyers call a secret weapon against fraud on Wall Street and in corporate America: the promise of a million-dollar jackpot to insiders who reveal an illegal scheme to the government."

LA Times: "Fed may act if job market doesn't improve, Bernanke says ... The Federal Reserve may try to push borrowing costs even lower if the job market continues to languish, Fed Chairman Ben S. Bernanke said Thursday, offering a hint of what might trigger additional monetary easing."

Barron's: "No Answers, New Lows ... WHEN BEN BERNANKE TREKKED to Capitol Hill Wednesday, he didn't have any magic answers to the economy's malaise. So stocks tanked and Treasury note yields plumbed lower than during the darkest days of the crisis of 2008 and 2009."

Real Clear Markets: "It's a Fiscal Problem, Not a Fed Problem ... Ben Bernanke threw a curveball in his midterm report to Congress this week. The Fed view of the economy has been downgraded since it last reported in February."

Forbes: "The Way to Win on Wall Street Now ... Everybody hates Wall Street, and it's easy to see why. while one in six workers can't find a job, investment banks are hiring thousands."

The Economist: "Unnecessary evils ... DIAGNOSIS is often much simpler than treatment. The failures of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, America's housing-finance giants, are glaringly obvious."

